

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 19-0855V
(not to be published)

ANITA MCDONALD,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: September 9, 2022

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Attorney's Fees and Costs

Emily Beth Ashe, Anapol Weiss, Philadelphia, PA, for Petitioner.

Camille Michelle Collett, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS¹

On June 10, 2019, Anita McDonald filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the "Vaccine Act"). Petitioner alleges that she suffered right shoulder adhesive capsulitis as a result of an influenza vaccine administered to her on October 12, 2017. (Petition at 1). On January 26, 2022 a decision was issued awarding compensation to Petitioner based on the parties' stipulation. (ECF No. 36).

¹ Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Petitioner has now filed a motion for attorney's fees and costs, dated August 2, 2022 (ECF No. 41), requesting a total award of \$21,559.14 (representing \$20,826.50 in fees and \$732.64 in costs incurred by Petitioner's counsel of record). Petitioner also requests \$795.00 in fees incurred by Petitioner's former counsel, Lawrence R. Cohan. (*Id.* at 2). Petitioner further requests \$2,926.00 in fees incurred by Petitioner's former counsel, Gregory S. Spizer. (*Id.* at 2). Additionally, Petitioner requests \$1,900.00 in fees incurred by Petitioner's former counsel, Miriam Barish. (*Id.* at 3). Lastly, Petitioner requests \$736.00 in fees incurred by Petitioner's former counsel, David J. Carney. (*Id.* at 3). In accordance with General Order No. 9, Petitioner filed a signed statement indicating that she incurred no out-of-pocket expenses. (41-3). Respondent reacted to the motion on August 8, 2022, indicating that he is satisfied that the statutory requirements for an award of attorney's fees and costs are met in this case, but deferring resolution of the amount to be awarded to my discretion. (ECF No. 42). Petitioner did not file a reply thereafter.

I have reviewed the billing records submitted with Petitioner's request. In my experience, the request appears reasonable, and I find no cause to reduce the requested hours or rates.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Section 15(e). Accordingly, I hereby GRANT Petitioner's Motion for attorney's fees and costs. I award a total of **\$27,916.14³** as follows:

- A lump sum of **\$21,559.14**, representing reimbursement for fees and costs, in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's counsel of record, Emily B. Ashe; and
- A lump sum of **\$795.00**, representing reimbursement for fees and costs in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's former counsel, Lawrence R. Cohan; and
- A lump sum of **\$2,926.00**, representing reimbursement for fees and costs in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's former counsel, Gregory S. Spizer; and

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, § 15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See generally Beck v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs., 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

- A lump sum of **\$1,900.00**, representing reimbursement for fees and costs in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's former counsel, Miriam Barish; and
- A lump sum of **\$736.00**, representing reimbursement for fees and costs in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's former counsel, David J. Carney.

In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review (see Appendix B to the Rules of the Court), the Clerk shall enter judgment in accordance with this decision.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

⁴ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by filing a joint notice renouncing their right to seek review.